

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 16 has been amended. The amendment does not add new matter. Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Telephonic Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Wiehe for the courtesies extended to their undersigned representative during the telephone interview on July 24, 2007. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,775,296 to Schwarzmann et al. ("Schwarzmann"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16, as amended, recites a component of a fluid flow machine, which comprises a coolant passage comprising at least one curved flow section configured to curve in a first flow direction to establish coolant medium flow in the first flow direction; and a second passage comprising a dust discharge aperture having a longitudinal axis essentially parallel to an axis of the fluid flow machine, the dust discharge aperture arranged at the trailing edge of the component and dimensioned to enable the introduction of a borescope through the dust discharge aperture and the second passage, and the second passage (i) branching off the coolant passage at the curved flow section and (ii) being arranged to extend in the first flow direction

along a flow path which is tangential to the curved flow section (emphasis added).

Support for the amendment to claim 16 can be found, for example, in Figure 2. As was discussed during the interview, the dust discharge aperture 5 is located at the trailing edge of the component shown in Figure 2.

Schwarzmann discloses an airfoil for a rotary machine. The rotor blade 10 shown in Figure 2 of Schwarzmann comprises a first passage 54 and a second passage 56. A hole 72 is provided in the tip region to divert a portion of the flow from the turning passage 64 to the trailing edge region 46 of the blade. The hole 72 functions to provide additional cooling to the corner region (including the trailing edge 28) of the blade. As was discussed during the interview, the hole 72 is not located at the trailing edge 28. Thus, Schwarzmann does not anticipate the component of claim 16.

Claim 3, which depends from claim 16, is also not anticipated by Schwarzmann for at least the same reasons as those for which claim 16 is not anticipated.

Schwarzmann also provides no reason to modify the blade 10 to move the hole 72 to the trailing edge 28. In contrast, the hole 72 is arranged specifically to provide additional cooling to the trailing edge 28.

Schwarzmann also does not suggest that the hole 72 would be suitable for introduction of a borescope. In fact, the trailing edge region 46 includes a plurality of pedestals 48, and a borescope would have to pass these pedestals to be used in the blade 10. The Office has not established that Schwarzmann's blade would allow such borescope usage.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 16 is patentable over Schwarzmann. Dependent claim 3 is also patentable over Schwarzmann for at least the same reasons as those for which claim 3 is patentable. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the application is respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this response, to expedite prosecution, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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